

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

November 21, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
California Farm Bureau Federation Conference Room
2300 River Plaza Ave, Sacramento, CA

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft BDCP Steering Committee Notes October 3, 2008
- Handout #1 Draft Weighting Factors for Restoration Opportunity Area: Step 2 Evaluation Criteria
- Handout #2 Preliminary Draft—Estimated Extent of Lands within Restoration Opportunity Areas that may be Suitable for Tidal Marsh Restoration Area by Elevation Class
- Handout #3 Preliminary Draft—Potential Opportunities for Tidal Marsh Restoration by ROA based on Implementability, Suitability, and Cost
- Handout #4 Preliminary Draft—Summary of Potential Opportunities for Tidal Marsh Restoration by ROA based on Implementability, Suitability, and Cost
- Handout #5 Working Draft Section 3.3 Approach to Conservation: Overview of Key Conservation Measures and their Integration
- Handout #6 Working Draft Annotated BDCP HCP/NCCP Document Outline
- Handout #7 Draft Annotated Outline of Chapter 3
- Handout #8 Draft Documents Out for Steering Committee Review
- Handout #9 Draft BDCP Public Outreach Plan
- Handout #10 Working Draft BDCP HCP/NCCP Biological Goals and Objectives
- Handout #11 Draft Examples Demonstrating Relationships Among Goals and Objectives, Viability Attributes, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management for Selected Species
- Handout #12 Draft Biological Goals and Objectives: Hierarchical Relationships

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Approved Draft BDCP Steering Committee Notes October 3, 2008

Updates

- Delta Vision draft report due out the first week of December
- Longfin smelt regulatory action by the Fish and Game Commission could begin December 1, 2008
- Governor Schwarzenegger issued an Executive Order on renewable portfolio standard and has directed DFG to reorganize, creating an Ecosystem Conservation Division that will include: habitat conservation, NCCP, water branch, climate change and renewable energy. The purpose is to streamline project reviews.
- DWR reported that a salmon migration experiment by USGS is underway studying fish outmigration down the Sacramento River.
- The EIR for Dutch Slough habitat restoration project was released yesterday.
- TNC announced the new Delta Director position is being filled by Leo Winternitz beginning February 2009.

- SWRCB voted not to move forward with the Delta Plan hearings.

Working Groups, Technical Teams and Liaisons

Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group

Will Stelle presented an overview of Handout #11 *Draft Examples Demonstrating Relationships Among Goals and Objectives, Viability Attributes, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management for Selected Species* and Handout #12 *Draft Biological Goals and Objectives: Hierarchical Relationships* (see associated handouts/documents). Pete Rawlings presented an overview of Handout #10 *Working Draft BDCP HCP/NCCP Biological Goals and Objectives* (see associated handouts/documents).

Will reported that the WG met yesterday. Next steps include drafting monitoring metrics for the biological objectives. Some metrics should be ready for use in the December independent science advisors' adaptive management workshop. SC members discussed issues related to the documents including: gaps in the goals and objectives framework; the need to fill in numeric blanks in the objectives; using fish recovery goals from fish agencies for comparison; likelihood of recommendations from the adaptive management workshop informing the goals and objectives; clarification of differences between ecosystems and natural communities; determination of a baseline from which progress towards achieving objectives will be measured; and how will goals and objectives fit together with conservation measures.

Habitat Restoration Technical Team

Pete Rawlings presented the process being used to identify the opportunity acreage for restoration of tidal marsh within the Restoration Opportunity Areas (ROAs) (see Handout #4 associated handouts/documents). SC members issues raised by the presentation included: what are the next steps for the Habitat Restoration TT; role of the Integration Team in development of restoration objectives; how would breaching of levees impact restoration efforts; and restoration permitting issues.

Approach to Conservation

Paul Cylinder presented *Working Draft Section 3.3 Approach to Conservation: Overview of Key Conservation Measures and their Integration* (see associated handouts/documents). SC members discussed issues related to: the challenge of developing and integrating conservation measures; how much can be accomplished by the week of December 16-19; appropriate level of discussion of conservation measures in Section 3.3 overview; modifications to technical studies; the role of core elements in developing the conservation strategy; dependence of the EIR/EIS schedule on completion of BDCP work products; the need for clarity on water supply and environmental goals; appropriate level of detail in other sections of Chapter 3; inclusion of other stressors as core elements; appropriateness of establishing Sacramento River and San Joaquin River inflow parameters; role of the Integration Team in developing core elements; and the status and utility of conducting DRERIP evaluations.

Science Liaisons

Wayne Spencer reported on independent science advisors' adaptive management workshop schedule. The workshop will be held December 17-19.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Richard Roos-Collins reported that the WG completed a draft of working governance concepts and is developing a punch list of issues that WG participants will address in the development of a

governance structure/process. The WG is in process of reviewing the revised draft *Adaptive Management Plan* (section 3.6 of Chapter 3) .

Public Outreach Liaisons

Karla Nemeth (co-chair) presented Handout #9 *Draft BDCP Public Outreach Plan* (see associated handouts/documents). She discussed the upcoming December 12 tour of the Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District facilities, briefings with county officials and public workshops to be held in January and February 2009. Karla reminded SC members of the need for their technical expertise and participation at the public workshops.

Public Comment

A representative from the City of Antioch asked how the Frank's Tract project will be integrated into BDCP. Jerry Johns responded that the Frank's Tract project is independent of BDCP and that BDCP will address how Frank's Tract operations may be integrated into BDCP near-term and long-term operations.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)
Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)
Karla Nemeth (The Resources Agency)
Leo Winternitz (California Bay-Delta Authority)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
Sue Fry (USBR)
Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
Cindy Kao (Santa Clara Valley)
Jill Duerig (Zone 7)
Kurt Arends (Zone 7)
Steve Ottemoeller (Friant Water Authority)
Melinda Terry (North Delta Water Authority)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
John Cain (Natural Heritage Institute)
Anthony Saracino (The Nature Conservancy)
Greg Gartrell (Contra Costa Water District)
John McCamman (DFG)
Kathy Wood (USFWS)
Russ Strach (NMFS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Pete Rawlings (SAIC)

On phone

Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
Ron Kino (Mirant)

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
Chris Scheuring (California Farm Bureau Federation)
Wayne Spencer (Conservation Biology Institute)
Greg Thomas (Natural Heritage Institute)

Other attendees
See sign-in sheets
